REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 20, 2009. Claims 1 to 13 and 15 to 20 are now pending in the application, with Claim 14 having been canceled and new Claims 17 to 20 having been added. Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejections have been attended to by amending the claims to include a separate claim for each of the or clauses. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, structural elements relating the communication apparatus performing the method have been included in the body of the claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0020943 (Hijiri). The rejections are traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

As previously discussed, the invention manages requests of different classes when, for example, downloading multimedia data from a server to a browser. In the invention, at least one request of at least a first class of requests is enabled taking account of multimedia data received from at least a second class of requests, where the requests of the second class are predictable in time. A priority is then dynamically allocated to each of the enabled requests in accordance with characteristics of the enabled requests, and a

priority is also dynamically allocated to each of the enabled requests of the second class in accordance with the time remaining until the next request of the second class.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a method of managing requests in at least two distinct classes, relating to multimedia data, exchanged by a communication apparatus and at least one data source connected through a communication network, the method performed at the communication apparatus and comprising, a processor performing the steps of enabling at least one request of at least a first class of requests, the enabling taking account of the multimedia data received from at least a second class of requests, the requests of the second class being predictable in time, dynamically allocating a priority to each of the enabled requests, in accordance with characteristics of the enabled requests, and dynamically allocating a priority to each of the enabled requests of the second class in accordance with the time remaining until the next request of the second class.

Claim 7 is an apparatus claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1 and 7, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of dynamically allocating a priority to each of the enabled requests, in accordance with characteristics of the enabled requests, and dynamically allocating a priority to each of the enabled requests of the second class in accordance with the time remaining until the next request of the second class.

Hijiri is seen to disclose an animation data compression apparatus and method for compressing animation data as computer graphics (CG) data, and a network server using the compression apparatus. The animation data compressing scheme is used

to make transmission in real time possible for animation data of complicated CG contents, without degrading the smoothness of animation scenes even on a narrow-band network such as a telephone line. In Hijiri, animation data represents an animation scene of a CG content, such as a three-dimensional (3D) character, and is information on position, rotation, and scale, for each of a number of joints of a 3D CG character, which data has been generated on a time axis. More specifically, Hijiri teaches that the input animation data is classified into plural kinds of data, referred to as "channels". The priorities of the respective data classified as channels are determined according to three methods based on "the hierarchical structure of a CG scene", "the positional relationship between the view point and CG objects", and "the amounts of change in CG objects per unit time", respectively. The animation data is compressed while changing the compression ration for each of the channels classified, on the basis of the determined priorities of the respective channels.

The last step of Claim 1 recites "dynamically allocating a priority to each of the enabled requests of the second class in accordance with the time remaining until the next request of the second class". Here, the Office Action cited paragraphs [0067]-[0069], which is related to Fig. 7 that describes the determination of channels' priorities on the basis of the amount of change in data per unit of time. Indeed, Hijiri teaches that a higher priority is assigned to a channel whose amount of change is large while a lower priority is assigned to a channel whose amount of change is small. Thus, in Hijiri, the determination of a priority for a give channel depends on a time condition which concerns only the channel considered (i.e., the amount of time change of the channel). On the contrary, the invention determines the priority of a request dependent upon a time condition which

concerns another request, as a priority is allocated to a request (of the second class) in accordance with the time remaining until the next request (of the second class). Therefore, Claim 1 is not believed to be anticipated by Hijiri.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1 and 7, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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